

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, claim 15 stands objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(a) as being indefinite. In response, Applicants have corrected the typographical error noted by the Examiner, and respectfully traverse in light of this amendment. The Examiner's stated interpretation of the claim is correct, and Applicants have amended the claim consistently with this interpretation. No other amendments have been made to the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-12, and 14-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takaishi (U.S. 5,859,742). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons of record, and as follows. The cited reference does not teach (or suggest) settling control, as asserted by the Examiner.

Applicants maintain and incorporate by reference herein those arguments previously advanced on pages 9-12 of Amendment A, filed August 12, 2003. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider those arguments, and withdraw this Section 102 rejection. Additionally, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the following new arguments, and expansions upon the previous arguments.

The Examiner's continued rejection appears to be primarily based upon the erroneous assertion (page 3 of Paper No. 8) that "Takaishi discloses a head settling control in a disk drive," as in the present invention. In response to Applicants' previous arguments, the Examiner even additionally asserts that "Takaishi depicts a settling

control in Fig. 6 and see the associated descriptions for details.” The Examiner, however, appears to be misreading the Takaishi reference.

Fig. 6 of Takaishi shows a setting control module 54, and not any “settling” control. The accompanying description (col. 11, line 43, to col. 12, line 34) further illustrates that the cited portion of Takaishi refers only to a “setting control module,” and not “settling control.” Although these two disclosed controls have an unfortunate similarity in their spelling, the two otherwise in no way refer to the same features or functions. In this light, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review the Takaishi reference in detail, and withdraw this Section 102 rejection.

The Examiner has also rejected Applicants’ previous arguments by asserting that col. 22, lines 52-62, of Takaishi “discloses the compensation that is at the start of the settling control and which is immediately after the coarse time (or movement).” This assertion by the Examiner is also erroneous, and mischaracterizes the actual text from the Takaishi reference.

Takaishi does not teach that the “start of settling control” begins immediately after the coarse time, as asserted by the Examiner, but instead that the “settling state” is reached after the coarse time. Only the general “settling state” is taught by Takaishi, and nothing about control of this settling state. Moreover, nothing in the Takaishi reference teaches or suggests anything about the start or end of this settling state, and especially nothing about the start or end of any control of the settling state. The Examiner’s assertions to the contrary, therefore, are without support in the cited

reference. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejection should be withdrawn for at least these additional reasons.

The Examiner otherwise only cites in Takaishi to col. 3, line 59 to col. 6, line 3, col. 6, lines 22-57 (lines 33-37 specifically), col. 19, line 59 to col. 20, line 44, col. 22, lines 52-62, and col. 24, lines 15-47 as a basis for teaching “settling control.” None of these cited text portions of the reference, however, teaches anything like settling control as in the present invention.

In citing col. 3, line 59 to col. 6, line 3, the Examiner has made the same error discussed above, namely, confusing the setting control module with the settling control in the present invention. This portion of cited text actually only mentions the setting control module, or “setting module,” and does not discuss any “settling control,” or even anything about settling in general.

Col. 6 of Takaishi, on the other hand, does disclose a “predetermined settling condition” (lines 18, 19), and a measurement to the “end of settling” (line 59), but nothing about any control of this predetermined condition or measurement parameter. The disclosure of this condition/parameter only does not support the Examiner’s conclusion that Takaishi must therefore also teach a separate control of the condition or parameter.

Lines 33-37 of col. 6 of Takaishi fail to disclose or suggest anything regarding “settling control,” or “the start of the settling,” as asserted by the Examiner. Similar to the error mentioned above, this portion of text from Takaishi refers not to any

settling control, but actually to the “setting module” (line 32). This text portion also fails to teach or suggest anything about the parameter “the start of settling,” or even a start of the setting.

The cited portion of text from col. 22 of Takaishi similarly fails to teach anything about settling control, or the start of settling. Lines 52-62 refer only to a “settling state” (lines 55, 59) and a “first settling determination” (line 61). No reference, however, is made in this portion of text to any control of the disclosed settling state, or when the settling state may start. This cited portion refers only to a “seek start point” (line 54), but nothing about a settling start point.

The Examiner’s reliance on col. 24 of Takaishi suffers from the same deficiencies as those noted above. Lines 15-47 refer only to “seek control” (line 18), a parameter performed “immediately after the reception of the seek command” (lines 19-20), and a parameter for “the end of seek” (lines 45-46). Nothing in this portion of text remotely teaches or suggests settling control, or parameter of the start of settling.

Accordingly, because not a single one of the portions of text cited by the Examiner from the Takaishi reference provides any support for his assertion that Takaishi teaches settling control as in the present invention, the Section 102 rejection based on Takaishi is even further respectfully traversed, and should be immediately withdrawn.

Additionally, Applicants wish to point out that seek, coarse, and settling movements of a magnetic head are all separate events and/or functions. Accordingly,

seek control, coarse control, and settling control are also separate and different, and are not simply interchangeable, as implied by the Examiner in his comments.

In addition to the arguments discussed above, Applicants further traverse the rejection of claims 1 and 11 in particular because the Examiner has not cited to anywhere within the single prior art reference where may be found any teaching or suggestion of the claimed features of the present invention relating to “initial bias value.” “Bias value” is clearly defined in the Specification to the present Application, namely, a correction value for an external force applied to the actuator. The portion of text from Takaishi that was cited by the Examiner does not address any correction values for external forces. Applicants note in particular that the Examiner has not asserted any such features from Takaishi. Accordingly for at least these additional reasons as well the rejection of claims 1 and 11, as well as their dependent claims, is again traversed.

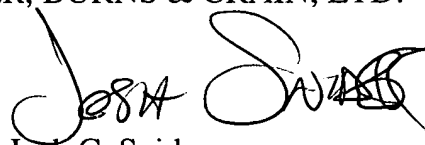
Applicants further wish to note that only claim 15 of the present invention has been amended in this Response, and to correct for a typographical error only. Accordingly, no new issues have been raised by this Amendment, particularly given the fact that the Examiner has already stated on the record that claim 15 has already been considered according to the now-amended claim language. Applicants submit therefore, that entry of this Amendment after final rejection is appropriate.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 1-2, 4-12, and 14-20, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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